

Chapter 8

Fire Protection, Prevention, and Safety Awareness

This chapter discusses fire protection and prevention programs and procedures. Topics covered include fire divisions, hazard classifications and fire symbols, common safety violations and hazards, and characteristics of munitions fires.

FIRE PROTECTION PROGRAM

8-1. Every Army activity must have a fire protection program that includes fire protection training, fire suppression, and fire prevention. The program's objective is to eliminate the causes of fire and reduce the potential for loss of life, injury, and property damage. This objective is consistent with peacetime, combat, and SASO.

8-2. The commander's awareness and involvement are the most critical components of an effective fire protection program. Preserving life and property is a fundamental duty of all levels of command and supervision.

FIRE PREVENTION COMPONENTS

8-3. Each Army installation must establish a well-planned fire prevention program that includes SOPs, fire prevention training, identification and elimination of hazards, enforcement of fire regulations, and adequate fire protection for facilities. This program requires strong command emphasis and support.

8-4. Frequent surveys and inspections help to establish the best standards and practices for preventing fires. Munitions fires are among the most feared because of the potential for casualties, destruction, and loss of property and equipment. Most fires involving munitions are preventable. Thus, fire safety awareness and training in prevention practices are especially important.

STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURES

8-5. The fire prevention procedures presented here are basic. They should be supplemented by whatever other standards the commander feels are needed to protect the ASA. At minimum, the unit SOP will contain the following rules and procedures to be enforced by everyone working around munitions:

- Strictly regulate and control smoking in areas where ammunition, explosives, highly combustible materials, or flammable items are kept. If smoking can be regulated safely, designate specific locations approved by the commander or safety officer and equip these areas with proper receptacles for butts or smoking residue. Do not allow smoking in vehicles passing through these areas.
- Locate the smoking area at least 50 feet from the area containing munitions and explosives if noncombustible walls do not separate these two areas. Also ensure that at least one serviceable fire extinguisher is placed in the area. Do not permit anyone whose

